

*B. J. Collins*  
centering guide slot receiving said axial butt.

21. The apparatus of Claim 11, said cutting die having a hole with a coliso formed therein, said head of said bolt being received with said coliso when said cutting die is affixed against said cutting die support cylinder.

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REMARKS

Upon entry of the present amendments, original Claims 1-10 have been canceled and new Claims 11-21 substituted therefore. Reconsideration of the rejections, in light of the foregoing amendments and present remarks, is respectfully requested. The present amendments have been entered for the purpose of placing the claim language into a more proper U.S. format and also for the purpose of more clearly distinguishing the present invention from that of the prior art.

In the Official Action, it was indicated that Claims 1-2 and 5-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by the Collins patent. Claims 3 and 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Collins patent in view of the Muller patent. The drawings were objected to under 37 C.F.R. 1.84(p) (4).

In reply to the Official Action, applicant has extensively amended the original Claim language in the form of new Claims 11 - 21. New independent Claim 11 incorporates the limitations of original Claim 1, along with portions of dependent Claims 2 and 3. In particular, new independent Claim 11 positively recites the "cutting die support cylinder" and the "cutting die". The "fixing means" is described as a bolt upwardly connected to a "working device". The "working device" serves to "resiliently" move the bolt from a retracted position to an extended position in which the bolt has a head extending outwardly of the surface of the cutting die support cylinder.

Independent Claim 11 also recites that the working device is a “dynamic fluid cylinder”. The working device will move the head of the bolt outwardly so that the head of the bolt is secured to the cutting die when in its extended position. Applicant respectfully contends that the language of new Claim 11 is patently distinguishable from the prior art references.

Importantly, the purpose of the present invention is described in the original specification on pages 2 and 3, lines 33-2 as follows:

This characteristic permits rapid fixing of the rotary cutting die to the cutting die support cylinder, with the result that the shutdown time of the machine to change the cutting die is less than at present, improving the productivity of the die machine.

The fluid dynamic cylinder of the present invention operates to move the bolt between a retracted position and an extended position so that the cutting die can be placed there over. When the bolt is moved to its extended position, the bolt can be used to secure the cutting die in its desired position on the cylinder. As such, the present invention avoids the need to manually secure the cutting die through the use of threaded members and bolt holes. The present invention provides a positive connection between the bolt and the cutting die for the proper positioning of the cutting die. The expense and inaccuracy associated with the manual placement of such bolts is eliminated by the present invention, as defined by independent Claim 11. If the cutting die is improperly positioned, then the resilient mounting of the bolt will keep the bolt in its retracted position without damage to the cutting die or to the bolt. When the cutting die is moved so that the bolt hole on the cutting die is properly positioned over the head of the bolt, the head of the bolt will move to its extended position through the hole of the cutting die so as to properly secure the cutting die to the cylinder.

Applicant respectfully contends that the prior art, individually or in combination, does not show such a structure.

Fundamentally, the Collins patent describes a different system than that of the present invention. The Collins patent uses holes for securing the cylinder to the cutting die. These holes are referred to as “a plurality of mounting holes 14”. The Collins patent does not describe any sort of “working device” for resiliently moving the bolt between a retracted position and an extended position. The spring in the Collins patent is simply used to move the locking bar. It does not serve the purpose of moving the bolts between their retracted position and their extended position.

The Muller patent does have a dynamic fluid system for adjusting the cutting bar. The Muller patent does not describe any structure for moving the bolt between its retracted and extended position for the purpose of securing a “cutting die” in its proper position relative to the cylinder.

Applicant has extensively reviewed the Collins and the Muller patent. It is very difficult to see how the teachings of the Muller patent can, in any way, be combined with the teachings of the Collins patent so as to show the structure of the present invention. The application of force by the dynamic fluid cylinder of the Muller patent is simply used so as to adjust the cutting force applied to the cutter bar in the Muller patent. The Collins patent uses a cutting die that is secured by bolts to the cutting cylinder. Applicant’s attorney cannot see how the mounting bolts of the Collins patent can, in any way, be connected to the dynamic fluid cylinders of the Muller patent so as to produce the structure of the present invention. Quite clearly, there is nothing in the combination of the prior art references that would suggest that the attachment of the bolt to the dynamic fluid cylinder would, in any way, simplify the mounting procedure of the cutting die to the cylinder. Fundamentally, the prior art combination does not show the structure, carry out the function, or achieve the results

associated with the present invention, as defined by independent Claim 11.

Applicant has amended the dependent claims of the original application so as to place such language into a more proper U.S. format. Dependent Claim 12 recites the remainder of original Claim 2 that was not incorporated into independent Claim 11. Dependent Claims 13 and 14 recite the separate portions of original Claim 4. Dependent Claim 15 recites the limitations of original Claim 5 in a more proper U.S. format. Similarly, dependent Claim 16 recites the limitations of original Claim 6 in a more proper U.S. format. Dependent Claim 17 recites the limitations of a portion of original Claim 7. Dependent Claims 18-20 recite the limitations of original Claims 8-10, respectively. Applicant respectively contends that the prior art references do not show the structure of the present invention, in any way, as defined by new dependent Claims 15-20 as amended.

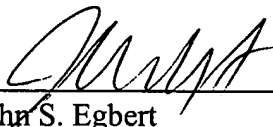
Applicant has amended the specification on page 7, line 3, so as to correct a typographical error referencing the "Orifice 11".

On this basis, Applicant respectively contends that independent Claim 11 is now in the proper condition for allowance. Additionally, those claims which are dependent upon independent Claim 11 should also be in a proper condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the rejections is

requested and allowance of the claims at an early date is earnestly solicited. Since no additional claims have been added above those originally paid for, no additional fee is required.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

  
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